

HAWAIIAN GAZETTE

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Entered at the Postoffice of Honolulu, H. T., Second-class Matter.
Semi-Weekly—Issued Tuesdays and Fridays.

Subscription Rates:

Per Month \$.25 Per Month, Foreign \$.35
Per Year \$2.50 Per Year, Foreign \$4.00

Payable Invariably in Advance.

CHARLES S. CRANE, Manager.

FRIDAY : : : : : MAY 27

SELLING AT COST.

Profits made in the plantation stores, according to the plantation reports, vary from a few hundred dollars a year to as much as thirty thousand dollars, although few of the published reports give the larger figures, preferring that the store profits should come in among the et cetera. As a general rule, however, it will be found that few of the plantation stores make any great percentage of profit over what they have decided to charge under the new "sell at cost" rule, so far as the necessities of life are concerned, while the decision to apply the cost rule only to employees will result, very probably, in the stores confining all their business to employees. Maintaining two sets of prices would entail endless trouble.

The question for the wholesalers of Honolulu and the independent storekeepers throughout the country to consider, however, appears to us to be this: If the plantations sell necessities to laborers at cost and this results in a saving to the laborers of three dollars a month, as has been claimed, will not the country be better off with this money in the hands of the laborers to be spent than in the hands of the plantations as profits? No one questions the fact that a raise of laborers' pay all round of three dollars a month would benefit everyone in business in the Territory.

The bulk of profits goes to the plantation stores now and the bulk of the necessities is purchased from the plantation stores now. If the trade in necessities continues to go to the plantation stores, but the profits remain with the people to spend where and how they please, will the benefit to the Territory not be felt?

To argue that plantation stores should be retained on a profit earning basis in order that some little part of the profit may be diverted away from them appears to be about as fallacious as to argue that railroads should be suppressed, because they throw stage drivers out of business.

If the profits of the plantation stores of Oahu amount to fifty thousand dollars a year, for instance, would not Honolulu be better off with that amount loose in the hands of the people than to have the present system continue and have that amount pass into the hands of the corporations?

Money in general circulation is more beneficial to the community than money locked up in the banks.

A lot of people with a little money will scatter it farther and quicker than a few people with lots of money.

THE HUNAN RIOTS.

The Hunan riots, according to the reports from China, have come as a protest against the compliance of the Manchus in allowing foreigners to share in the building of the Hankow-Canton railroad, through the southeastern provinces, the railway system planned being known variously as the Hankow-Canton; Hankow-Szechuen and Hukuang, according to the choice of the writer. The railroad system is to open up a large tract of southern China and give the ports of Hankow and Canton further railroad connection with the hinterlands.

An international syndicate of financiers, from America, Great Britain, France and Germany, have just concluded the work of dividing up the loan of thirty million dollars, which they are now ready to offer to the Chinese government as a construction fund. The Powers are not advancing any part of the money, the interests of the various governments being confined to seeing that capitalists of their respective countries get in on the deal in order that the trade that may result from the construction of the road will not go to any one country.

When the antiforeign rioting began, the reason advanced was that famine existed in the Hunan province and it was believed by the populace that the foreigners in business in Chang-Sha had cornered the rice for profit. This news hastened the negotiations for the loan, the stand being taken that the sooner the railroads into the district were built the sooner would the possibilities of further famines be averted. Thus the very protest of the Chinese will probably precipitate what they are protesting against.

The rioting, as a matter of fact, has placed the Peking government in an embarrassing position. Evidence accumulates that the outbreak was planned and deliberate, schemed by influential persons as a warning to the central government to make plain the determined opposition of Hunanites to the railroad concessions. Millions of Chinese are imbued with the idea that the government is yielding weakly to foreign influence, which is seeking political control in China.

There is and has been famine in Hunan, as a result of the great floods last year, but the rioting arises from a different cause.

WHAT EVERYONE KNOWS.

There is scarcely a business house in Honolulu that has not some time or other found it necessary to discharge employees because they rendered themselves unfit for proper service through the use of intoxicating liquors.

The O. R. & L. railroad will not knowingly employ a drinking man on its trains.

The Honolulu Rapid Transit will not retain in its employment a man who uses intoxicants.

Plantations do not want men in their offices who drink or in charge of any of the important work of the plantations.

Even Honolulu saloonkeepers have been known to discharge bartenders who drank while on duty.

The use of intoxicants as beverages has no defenders. No one with any reputation for sanity to maintain will publicly announce that it is wise, helpful, healthy, conducive to business or productive of good to drink at all, even moderately. The best anyone can say for the use of intoxicants is that its use in moderation "does no harm."

There is not a father in Honolulu who would willingly see his son in a barroom; there is not a son in Honolulu who would not be ashamed to have his mother see him in a barroom; there is not a son in Honolulu who does not have more or less of a feeling of shame at knowing that his father is a frequenter of barrooms.

There is not a man who drinks and not a man who sells drinks who does not, in his heart, know that there is no good resulting from the liquor traffic or from drinking.

The liquor business has apologists, but it has no defenders.

There is no one who will not say that the saloon is an influence for bad; the best anyone can say for it is that things might be worse.

THE PLATFORM OF PROHIBITION.

The platform adopted by the People's Prohibition League at its first general committee meeting last night is one that meets the issue squarely. There is no equivocation, no dodging and no parrying of the issue before the people in the special election.

The league will work for a territorial law to prohibit the manufacture and sale of liquor in the Territory, a prohibition law that will go the limit of local legislative power.

It will advocate the passage of a bill in congress to prohibit the importation of liquors into the Territory, something which only congress can do.

It will work for the success of prohibition at the special election and will work for the passage of a prohibition bill in the legislature.

On such a platform, every man who has the good of the Territory at heart may stand unashamed. Against such a platform there can not be made the criticism that has been raised that the prohibition for Hawaii aimed at will mean a law that discriminates against any part of the people of Hawaii.

The People's Prohibition League has declared for a prohibition that will apply to rich and poor alike, to white and Hawaiian in the same way, to one and all in the Territory without distinction of money, race or color.

Dare the antiprohibitionists announce their platform or come out with any such clearest declaration of principles?

The present prohibition agitation is doubtless the reason why the proprietors of the Walkiki bathing beaches have not blasted out the coral that has practically destroyed the beach for tourist purposes.

PLANTATION STORE POLICIES.

Does anyone suppose that the plantations are going to grant a general increase of wages to their laborers for the sake of keeping alive a limited number of general stores throughout the Territory, when the plan a number of them have proposed will accomplish the same general result without being or great a tax upon them? If some of the plantations can not see their way now to agreeing to the sell-at-cost plan, certainly more of them would object strenuously to any plan of a general increase in wages, simply to oblige the outside business community. An increase in wages may come, but it will be for reasons other than those advanced in connection with the store question.

Three courses are open now: the plantations can go on running their stores as they have been doing; they can run their stores for the benefit of their employees, selling goods at a price that will pay interest on the investment, cost of handling and loss through waste, eliminating the profits, or, they can go out of the store business altogether. The plantations will consider what is best for the plantations, not the general effect upon the Territory, except incidentally.

There has been more or less complaint in the past against the plantations maintaining stores, the complaint being principally on the allegation that the profits made were excessive, advantage being taken of the employees to force their trade into plantation stores. Some time ago, before the first lot of Russians ever landed, the Portuguese of Hawaii asked their consul in Honolulu to intervene between them and ruination, caused by the competition of the plantation stores. At the same time some of these independent dealers were buying all their stock from plantation stores doing a wholesale business, finding that the prices charged them were better than those they could get from the regular wholesalers. The position taken by these dealers at that time was that the laborers existed for the benefit of the stores, not the stores for the benefit of the laborers, which is practically the position taken now by those agitating against the sell-at-cost policy. The policy of continuing the stores as they are at present, therefore, has been the object of criticism, justified or unjustified.

Then came the question of the expense of living in Hawaii, where the cost of staples has advanced as it has everywhere throughout the United States. The complaints made public by the Russians brought the matter to a head, the contention being made that the plantation stores were overcharging the newcomers, taking advantage of the fact that the immigrants had no money and were compelled to buy on credit, which they could only get on the plantation stores. It was charged that the cost of living overran the wages being paid.

These complaints were made to The Advertiser, who turned them over to Governor Frear as the proper one to investigate them. The investigation was made and the fact was established that the prices were not excessive. As a result of the publicity, however, the plantations made a proposal that they would do away with all profits on the necessities of life sold to employees, steps being taken to see that this reduction was made only to employees. That is the situation that has created the furor now existing.

The contention being made by those opposed to this policy is that the sale-at-cost will first drive the independent stores out of existence and will then cause trouble with the laborers from the fact that the cost of staples will vary at the different plantations, according to the varying transportation distances and according to the prices in the market when purchases are made. There are plantations, too, which have no stores and whose laborers depend now on the independent stores. On these plantations, it is contended, the laborers will be dissatisfied at having to pay more for necessities than laborers on other plantations. The interests of the laborers are not considered in any of the objections raised. The matter appears to be one between the plantation and the independent dealer exclusively.

Should the plantations go out of the store business altogether? If this be done the independent dealers will have all the trade, prices being regulated through competition. This is advanced by some as one way out of the difficulty, or what is being made to appear a difficulty.

This presupposes that the plantations have no interest in their laborers other than to get the work out of them. In some instances, many instances in fact, the plantations maintain stores to their own inconvenience in order that the employees may be assured of necessities at a reasonable cost. The store provides a check on prices they must pay. It also supplies a place where the employees who require it have credit. In no case are laborers required to trade at the plantation store.

It is argued by some that the plantations should not provide houses for their employees, should not allow them the free use of land for gardening, should not supply free medical attendance or free fuel, but should, on the other hand, advance wages to enable the laborer to pay rent, pay doctors, buy fuel and lease garden lands. Such, for many reasons, is out of the question.

While on the face of things the wages paid might appear bigger, it is foolish to suppose that the laborers, as individuals, could get for their money what the plantations are able to get them for the same amounts. The plantations must supply houses, must supply the doctors, must do the many things they are doing. Only in this way is it possible to look out for the health of their people, the comfort of their people and the good of their people. We have examples of independent camps on plantations, breeding spots for plague, for the fomenting of labor troubles, for crime of various kinds such as those at Waipahu on this island. From almost every standpoint of reason, it is not to be thought of for the good of the Territory that these last suggestions be adopted. As a matter of fact, no plantation will adopt them and they can be eliminated from the discussion.

The matter appears to be this: should the plantations give up their announced policy of practically advancing wages through giving employees the profits heretofore made on the necessities of life purchased at the plantation stores, or shall the plantations go on as they have been adding these profits to the profits made otherwise on the plantations?

As a question of economies, for the greatest good of the greatest number, the first plan should be adopted. The maintaining of stores that sell at cost is simply the maintaining of a cooperative store with the customer drawing down his percentage of profits with each purchase, the only difference being that the cooperative feature will only apply to certain lines of wares, leaving others on the open competitive basis. As a result, the money saved on the necessities can be spent on the others. There will be more money in general circulation and there will be but little less paid out in plantation dividends.

In the long run everyone in the Territory will benefit, although there may be some pinching at first and some confusion before things adapt themselves to the new order.

SPEED MANIACS.

Several days only have elapsed since life was sacrificed to the speed mania of local automobilists, but the time since the last fatal accident has been long enough to enable the speeders to forget and to begin again to run chances. With a too small force of officers, Sheriff Jarrett cannot stop all the speeders. The best he can do is arrest those whom he is able to catch. This he must do. Public opinion demands it and public opinion will support him in what he does.

It has been said by more than one observer of the speeders that public indignation will not be aroused to the breaking point so long as the victims are among those in the humbler walks of life, but that there will be a hanging, legal or otherwise, when some millionaire or some millionaire's son or daughter is killed. This is the language being used.

There are some in Honolulu already prepared to take personal vengeance should harm come to their children or relatives from speeders.

Automobilists will do well to heed the signs of the times.

THE RUSSIAN REPRESENTATIONS.

The Washington representatives of the Russians are several weeks behind. There is no longer any Russian question in Hawaii. Several hundred have gone to work, finding that the terrors they feared existed only in the minds of those who made it a business to misrepresent, for some reason that has not yet been determined. The Russians in Hawaii today who are not in jail are contented, happy and doing well. They are good workers and are well liked by their employers.

The "police maltreatment" referred to in the cable this morning from New York, was the little spanking they got from Sheriff Jarrett, a spanking that proved to be the turning point in the whole trouble. Later on these Russians will thank the police for showing them that attention, which brought them to their senses.

The reports that Washington will hear today of the troubles of the Russians in Hawaii will sound a good deal like the reports Hawaii is hearing of the great slaughter of prohibitionists in Illinois, as presented in the Bulletin. Give a story time and let it get far enough away, and wonderful is the result when judiciously handled.

Murderer Wynne, lying in prison here waiting for the day when the hangman's noose will tighten about his neck, was drunk when he committed the crime for which he is to die. Let that fact sink in.

Letters From
The PeopleDO SALOONS MAKE BUSINESS
LIVELY?

"The saloons make business lively we are told."

To prohibit the sale of liquor upon the Islands here would be annihilating the future business possibilities of this fair land, some people say. Those are bad arguments, if true, but we most strenuously doubt them.

'Tis true that saloons make certain contemptible enterprises profitable. But what enterprises? Do the patrons of saloons have clearer brains, steadier nerves, brighter intellect, stronger bodies, work more hours per day, receive larger compensation for their labor, than nonpatrons?

Do they buy more meat, more groceries, more hats, more shoes, more clothing? Are they occupying better homes, owners of more land, and enjoy better health than the sober and total abstainers?

Did you ever hear of a business that was willing and anxious to employ men after they had received their degree from some rumrunner's shop, and the saloon was done with them? Even the devil himself finds no occupation that they are capable of promoting. Talk about saloons making business lively!

Yes, for the police courts, and prosecutors, and jails, and gallows, and sheriffs, and hangmen.

Yes, for the doctors, and undertakers, and sextons.

Yes, for gambling dens, dives and other places of illrepute; for crooks, thieves, murderers, ballothead stuffers and political corruption.

But no worthy and honorable business or enterprise was ever helped by the saloons.

And the only cure for this evil and for the promotion of better business interests in Hawaii is total abstinence, and Territorial wide prohibition.

J. E. JACOBSEN.

TWO FRUITLESS
SEARCHES FOR GRACE

There were two Anderson Grace searches yesterday, both of them without result. The first was in the Magoon block. The police made a sudden descent upon the place and went through it from cellar to basement, on a hint that the escaped murderer might be there.

Late in the afternoon there came a tip that Grace had been seen at Kalihi. As usual, Sheriff Jarrett, Chief McDuffe and a force of officers made as quick time as possible to the scene. But they found out nothing about Grace except that he wasn't there.

Ready for the Mongolia.

The Hawaii Promotion Committee room at the Alakea wharf may be in readiness to do business with tourists on Monday when the Mongolia arrives from San Francisco. Secretary Cooper at yesterday's meeting of the committee, stated that he was having the room furnished and made ready as a bureau of information. While the room will be able to furnish information for tourists who arrive on the big liners and come ashore by way of the gallery, tourists who arrive on smaller vessels and disembark on the main floor, will not find an information bureau unless they mount the stairs to the gallery.

A NOTABLE CURE
AT BELLINGHAMTonic Treatment With Dr. Williams' Pink Pills Exactly
What Was Needed.

Many people who are in a chronic condition of ill health really need nothing more than a tonic.

It is the blood that is at fault and with the vital fluid scanty, lacking in richness or purity there are frequently produced an alarming lot of symptoms all of which will disappear when the blood is again built up.

The name anemic has been given to the condition when the blood is thin and poor. It is a Greek word and means simply "too little blood." The patient is fatigued after slight exertion and the least exercise results in shortness of breath. It is a condition which always brings on a fear of consumption and advances so gradually that its progress is seldom noticed until it is well established.

The one remedy for a bloodless condition is more blood. That is why Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, the great blood-maker, have accomplished so many cures.

Mrs. William N. Smith, of No. 1638 Humboldt street, Bellingham, Wash., owes her cure to a thorough trial of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills.

"About six years ago," she says, "I was greatly run down in health through overwork. I was unable to do much of any work for several months and was so weak and short of breath that I couldn't walk a block without being completely tired out. I was pale, thin and nervous. I had no ambition and felt worn out all of the time."

"I went to a druggist, who was also a doctor, and he said my trouble was due to a lack of blood and advised me to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. The pills helped me from the first box and I gave them a thorough trial. I was soon strong and well again and haven't been sick since. I always recommend Dr. Williams' Pink Pills to any person who is run down and suffering because of weak or impure blood."

For such diseases of the blood as rheumatism, lumbago, chlorosis, after-effects of the grip and fevers and general debility, there is no more direct or certain cure than Dr. Williams' Pink Pills.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are sold by all druggists, or will be sent, postpaid, on receipt of price, 50 cents per box; six boxes for \$2.50, by the Dr. Williams' Medicine Company, Schenectady, N. Y.

RAPID TRANSIT
IMPROVEMENTS

More Cars, Double Tracks, Waiting Stations and Pearl Harbor.

All the King street sidings of the Rapid Transit Company on the Walkiki side of Fort street are to be lengthened out so that each will accommodate about ten cars, enabling the company to handle great crowds on rush days without much delay on the various routes.

When this work is done and certain engineering work done with reference to manholes is completed, the double tracking of King street from Kawaiakao to Palama will be undertaken. Most of the material is here for the double track.

The heavy motors for new cars have been received. The new cars are about six inches wider than the ones now in use, the platforms are larger and there will be wide spaces at the centers of the cars for passengers to board and leave the cars. With the wider platforms and the central entrances the cars can be loaded and unloaded more quickly.

At the present time the company is laying a track on Hotel street on the makai side of the present car barn to connect with the new car barn being erected on the company's property between Beretania and Hotel streets, Waikiki of the powerhouse. This car barn will be used to store the reserve cars leaving the old barn free for the cars in active service.

General Manager Ballentyne has made a contract for six waiting stations to be erected at various terminals, and when these are completed others may also be built. These are of a pleasing design and will be greatly appreciated by patrons of the company.

As to the Pearl Harbor extension, the company is still waiting for news from Washington that the red-tape regarding the right-of-way over a portion of the military reservation has been untied and the right-of-way granted. This only a formality and will be concluded soon.

FOR WOMEN'S EASTERN
GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

NEW YORK.—The Women's Eastern Golf Association has announced its program for the annual championship tournament, to be held this year over the links of the Huntingdon Valley Country Club, at Noble, Pennsylvania, on June 8, 9, 10 and 11. This tournament will be extended over 72 holes of medal play. The winner of the competition will be known as the champion woman golfer of the East and her name will be engraved on the association cup, which will be held for the year by the club from which the winner shall have entered. The winner will receive a gold medal outright, while those finishing second and third will get silver and bronze medals.

The first 18-hole round of the championship will be played on the morning of June 8. Side fixtures are to claim attention each afternoon, the one on the first day being a driving contest, the longest drive to count. On Thursday morning the second championship 18-hole round will be run off, followed by an 18-hole medal play handicap in the afternoon. The same program is scheduled for Friday and Saturday.

In previous years 36 holes have been considered a sufficient test, although on two occasions the play has been so close that 18 extra holes were necessary to decide a tie. This year the committee believes that by planning 18 holes each day for four days, there will be no tie, and that the champion will truly earn the title.

The annual meeting of the association will take place June 9, at half-past two o'clock in the afternoon at the Huntingdon Valley Country Club. Each member of this association is entitled to be represented by one voting delegate duly authorized by the club secretary.

ROOSEVELT HONORED

CAMBRIDGE, England, May 26.—Great enthusiasm marked the ceremony of conferring the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws upon ex-President Roosevelt by Cambridge University today. A large number of notables were present to congratulate Roosevelt.

Cost of Battleships.

The comparison of the respective cost of construction of American and British battleships made by Rear-Admiral Bowles, United States Navy, retired, and which showed that the former was considerably less, formed the subject of a question put to Reginald McKenna in the house of commons at London Thursday. The first lord of the admiralty replied that he was unable to say why the cost was lower in the protected country than free trade England, as he had no detailed information as to the exact proportions of the vessels and equipments included in the computation. "In this comparison of the cost of battleships," continued Mr. McKenna, "there is no standard of quality. In speaking of mercantile ships, in which presumably a certain standard of excellence would be demanded, Rear-Admiral Bowles admitted that the United States could not compete with the British and the German firms." Mr. McKenna was invited to say whether the standard of efficiency in the equipment of the United States Navy was 25 per cent less than in the British navy, but replied that he had no knowledge as to the standard of efficiency in the United States Navy and could make no comparison.